

JAT Oil Spill, Athens, McMinn County, TN

POLREP #6, 05/11/01-06/06/01

CURRENT ACTIONS

The Site has been backfilled and graded since the previous POLREP. Analytical data was received from the underground storage tank (UST) removal. Results did not reveal contamination from the UST. Backfill and grading has been completed for this UST. The recovery wells has been installed to continuously recover product from the tank farm area. All fuel is collected periodically and transported for recycling.

Additional water sampling is being conducted at the water treatment plant down stream to assure no contaminants have been impacting the city water supply. The contaminants have impacted the groundwater on the property as indicated by the analytical data. However, no groundwater contamination has been identified off-site at this time.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Solid Waste Division has committed to take the lead for future groundwater issues and monitor water quality. The State's Solid Waste Division and the Underground Storage Tank Division will coordinate future oversight actions.

A followup Administrative Order was issued during the week of May 28th to the property owner, Ms. Blackburn. There currently has been no response from the original Order issued Certified Mail in March of 2001.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Continued monitoring of the established recovery/monitoring wells will be conducted by the respondents. Oversight activities will continue throughout this removal action. Coordination with State and local government will continue with response actions. The Tennessee Solid Waste Division will oversee future groundwater remediation from this spill.

POLREP #5, 04/19/01-05/10/01

CURRENT ACTIONS

Since the April 18, 2001 POLREP, site activities have consisted of contaminated soil excavation from the main tank farm area, soil sampling, fuel recovery and removal of an underground storage tank. The two Respondents identified in the Administrative Order continue to remediate the site.

The final excavation of soil from the main storage area was completed during this period. Removal consisted of more than 1,000 cubic yards of soil nearing the groundwater table within the pit. The cleanup goal of 100 total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) was not attained due to widespread fuel contamination. Products consisting of diesel and gasoline were collected from atop groundwater in two separate pits within the excavation area. Air monitoring of the excavated area continued to detect elevated organic levels. The

removal contractor, Miller Contracting, placed two recovery pipes within the excavated area for ongoing recovery of a product. The excavation was backfilled after representative soil sampling of the pit was collected.

One 6,000 gallon capacity underground storage tank was removed from the property on April 25, after the contents were pumped out and transported off-site. Representative soil samples were collected from the excavated tank. The removal contractor is awaiting laboratory analysis from this storage tank.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Solid Waste Division has committed to take the lead for future groundwater issues and monitor water quality. The State's Solid Waste Division and the Underground Storage Tank Division will coordinate future oversight actions.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Soil sample results from the main excavation area and the underground storage tank are expected in mid-May of 2001. Continued monitoring of the established recovery/monitoring wells will be conducted by the respondents. Backfilling of the underground storage tank will be completed after laboratory analysis is complete. Oversight activities will continue throughout this removal action. Coordination with State and local government will continue with response actions. The Tennessee Solid Waste Division will oversee future groundwater remediation from this spill.

POLREP #3, 04/17/01

CURRENT ACTIONS

Site activities have continued since the Administrative Orders were issued to the Respondents, JAT Oil and formerly Blackburn Oil. The removal contractor, Jim Miller Contracting, has completed tank removal of all above ground storage tanks. All oil and residual materials have been removed from these tanks and ancillary piping. The load rack and surrounding equipment were removed during the week of March 26, 2001.

Surface and subsurface soil samples collected for analysis on March 23rd by the responsible parties were provided results on April 2, 2001. Elevated total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs), and BTEX's were reported in the soil. Groundwater and surface water results also indicated elevated petroleum levels.

The facility concrete retaining wall and debris were removed and disposed at the Chestnut Ridge Landfill in Heiskell, Tennessee by late March 29, 2001. In addition, the tank sludge was transported off-site for treatment at the Domermuth Environmental facility in Knoxville, Tennessee. Excavation of contaminated soil began on April 2, 2001. An estimated 500 yards of soil will be removed, treated, and disposed off-site at the Domermuth facility. The excavation is expected to continue throughout the week.

The contractor will initiate groundwater issues on April 4, 2001. Additional monitoring and recovery wells will be installed over the next few days. An extraction system will be

used to recover product from this system. The Tennessee Division of Water Pollution Control has been contacted by the EPA for involvement with water quality issues and potential impact to surrounding areas off-site.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Soil sample results from EPA's sampling event are expected on April 4, 2001. Remediation of contaminated media, including soil, debris and potential waterways will be addressed. The 4,000 gallon underground storage tank will be removed and soil remediated in April of 2001. Oversight activities will continue throughout this removal action. Confirmation sampling will be conducted and cleanup goals will be established for this facility response. Backfill and grading will be completed upon confirmation of cleanup goals. Coordination with State and local government will continue with response actions.

POLREP #2, 03/27/01 PREVIOUS ACTIONS

On March 20, 2001 the NRC notified EPA of a 3,500 gallon oil spill at the Blackburn Oil Company, located at 1611 Old Niota Road in Athens, Tennessee. The spill, which occurred on March 16, 2001, occurred due to a failed valve on a 15,000 gallon above ground storage tank.

Mr. Larry Blackburn, the owner/operator of the facility, contacted a cleanup contractor to address the release. JAT Oil, the owner of the spilled product, was notified of the release. Cleanup actions began on March 16, 2001; however, the spill was not reported to the NRC until March 20, 2001.

Based on initial information obtained from the City of Athens Fire Department and representatives from JAT Oil, EPA was unable to make a determination on the status of the cleanup. Due to the inadequate information and the late reporting of the incident, EPA OSC Michael Taylor was dispatched to the Site.

OSC Taylor arrived on-site during the afternoon hours on March 21, 2001. OSC Taylor discovered a current release and the potential for a future release of oil to the Eastanalle Creek and several other deficiencies in the storage of the JAT product oil at the facility.

The facility operator informed the OSC of the decision to close their business. The company contemplated this closure for a period of time according to the manager. This decision caused EPA response with more than compliance issues for a spill.

CURRENT ACTIONS

On March 22, 2001 OSC Taylor issued a verbal order to respondents of JAT Oil and Blackburn Oil to address the discharge of oil from the facility. A CWA Section 311(c) order was issued for an immediate response to be initiated at the spill area. The responsible parties contracted a local firm, Jim Miller Contracting, to take actions for this spill.

EPA and the START contractor are conducting oversight of this responsible party lead action. An SPCC inspection was conducted with several noted violations recorded. The facility storage capacity is approximately 104,000 gallons. The storage tanks have been emptied and transported to the JAT Terminal in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Four storage tanks approximately 15,000 gallons in capacity have been removed during the week of March 25th. Two vertical tanks, 20,000 gallon capacity are being dismantled for removal on March 28, 2001. Miscellaneous tanks and piping have also been dismantled for off-site recycling during this period.

Surface and subsurface soil samples were collected for analysis on March 23rd. EPA collected soil samples on March 26, 2001 for additional site documentation purposes. The respondents drilled a monitoring and recovery well on-site to determine the potential for groundwater contamination. A 4,000 gallon underground storage tank exists as a collection and recovery tank near the property boundary. This tank was emptied and waste was sent off-site for treatment.

The concrete block retaining wall is being removed and stockpiled for off-site disposal. Disposal facilities are being reviewed for transportation and final disposal.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Impact to the soil and surface waters will be investigated. Remediation of contaminated media, including soil, debris and potential waterways will be addressed. Oversight activities will continue throughout this removal action. Confirmation sampling will be conducted and cleanup goals will be established for this facility response. Backfill and grading will be completed upon confirmation of cleanup goals. Coordination with State and local government will continue with response actions.

POLREP #1, 03/21/01.
ACTIONS TAKEN

On March 20, 2001 the NRC notified EPA of a 3,500 gallon oil spill at the Blackburn Oil Company, located at 1611 Old Niota Road in Athens, Tennessee. The spill, which occurred on March 16, 2001, occurred due to a failed valve on a 15,000 gallon above ground storage tank

Mr. Larry Blackburn, the owner/operator of the facility, contacted a cleanup contractor to address the release. JAT Oil, the owner of the spilled product, was notified of the release. Cleanup actions began on March 16, 2001; however, the spill was not reported to the NRC until March 20, 2001.

Based on initial information obtained from the City of Athens Fire Department and representatives from JAT Oil, EPA was unable to make a determination on the status of the cleanup. Due to the inadequate information and the late reporting of the incident, EPA OSC Michael Taylor was dispatched to the Site.

OSC Taylor arrived on-site during the afternoon hours on March 21, 2001. OSC Taylor discovered a current release and the potential for a future release of oil to the Oostanaula River and several other deficiencies in the storage of the JAT product oil at the facility. OSC Taylor will remain at the Site and provide assistance to the cleanup contractor in addressing these deficiencies.

FUTURE ACTIONS EPA OSC Taylor will continue to provide assistance to the representatives of JAT Oil and their environmental response contractors until Site conditions are stable.